

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: *Immature Tundra Swan in George Wyth State Park, Blackhawk Co., 15 February 2002. Photograph courtesy of Kent Nickell, Waterloo, IA.*

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C O N T E N T S

Meet an Iowa Birder — Bob Cecil <i>by Ann M. Johnson</i>	142
Range Expansion of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Iowa <i>by Robert I. Cecil</i>	146
Field Reports — Spring 2002 <i>by Matthew C. Kenne</i>	156
Addendum to Field Reports — Spring 2001 <i>by Matthew C. Kenne</i>	173
Report of the Records Committee for 2001 <i>by Ann M. Johnson</i>	174
Records from the Past: Lesser Goldfinch <i>by Thomas H. Kent</i>	177
Archival of Ornithological Records at Iowa State University Parks Library — Special Collections <i>by Thomas H. Kent</i>	182
Painted Bunting in Marshall County <i>by Beth Proescholdt</i>	184
IOU Spring 2002 Meeting and Board Meeting	185
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	188

Meet an Iowa Birder — Bob Cecil

Ann M. Johnson

Unless you are new to the Iowa birding community, you probably have encountered our favorite bleeding-heart liberal in person or in print. Señor Bob, sole owner of Bob's Budget Birding Tours, attended his first Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) meeting in May 1984 and has been an active member in the organization since. His name often appears in the by-line of these articles, but, while the current generation would think nothing of Bob writing his own tribute, future generations might find it peculiar. Thus, it becomes my privilege to introduce you to the little-known facts of the life of Robert I. Cecil, one of Iowa's best birders.



Robert I. Cecil

Bob Cecil remembers always being interested in critters although bugs were his major passion as a child. He was born 11 September 1947 in Kansas City, Kansas. His family later moved to Cedar Rapids where, through the efforts and interests of ninth grade biology teacher Mr. Young, his interest shifted more toward birds. A budding young birder, he became a member of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club and in 1964 joined the IOU for one year as a junior member.

As often happens, the birding suffered a hiatus during early adulthood. After receiving a B.S. in Education from Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, he taught English for several years in Illinois while living in Keokuk. He and wife Mary were leading a normal midwestern existence. One year, however, a spring break trip took them to the Gulf Coast where a chat with some

shrimpers concluded with an invitation to join the expedition that night. Bob was hooked on sea life. The Cecils quit their jobs and moved to Alabama for a year while Bob worked the shrimp boats for a living. Then it was time to return home where he ultimately became the Executive Director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission and he and Mary became the proud parents of John and Mary Michelle.

Although the birding interest waned in the twenty years since he had first joined the IOU, it was rekindled one day in 1984 as he drove along the Mississippi River from his home in Keokuk to Burlington. He sighted a large falcon flying a few yards from his car. At the time Gladys Black was probably Iowa's best-known birder because of her birding anecdotes published in *The Des Moines Register*, so he called her to describe his falcon. When she told him it sounded like a Peregrine Falcon, he was once again hooked on birding. He bought a pair of binoculars and began identifying the birds of southeastern Iowa. He recalls studying the early/late dates in *Iowa Birds* (Dinsmore et al. 1984) for a number of species, contemplating his proximity to places such as Shimek State Forest, and in typical Cecil-fashion thinking, "This is going to be easy!" And easy it was. To date he still holds a number of early records for migratory arrivals as he began to put the Croton Unit of Shimek on our birding maps. One of his first great Shimek records was a Prairie Warbler and it was there he documented the first probable twentieth century nesting record of Worm-eating Warbler in the state, which he confirmed the following year.

Bob jumped in feet first at his first IOU meeting the spring of 1984 and became one of the more active participants in the organization. He led the first IOU field trip to Shimek State Forest and a number of other Iowa birders were able to see some of the magic of this area. He has nearly single-handedly hosted a couple of spring meetings in Keosauqua with Shimek being almost everyone's primary destination for birding. "Eagle Bob," as the locals call him, knows this area intimately and has no doubt personally shown a number of us our first Iowa records for some of the area specialties.

He served as the IOU vice president from 1989 to 1991, was on the board of directors from 1987 to 1989, and has been the Winter Field Reports Editor since 1996. Always willing to share his knowledge and talents for birding projects, he served on the Steering Committee for *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* and is currently a member

of the Technical Committee for the Important Bird Areas of Iowa. For a time he hosted the Iowa Rare Bird Alert from his home in Keokuk and has been a great proponent of sharing birding information through written and electronic media, periodically serving a term on the Publications Committee. He is a frequent contributor to *Iowa Bird Life*. In addition to authoring a number of "Meet An Iowa Birder" articles, he has written articles on birding the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest, Pool 19 of the Mississippi River, and the Des Moines area. Bob has published numerous field notes on unusual breeding observations and rare birds found in the state, and he and Jim Dinsmore co-authored an article on the expansion of House Finch in the state (Cecil and Dinsmore 1995).

In the introduction to the species account for Warbling Vireo in *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* (Jackson et al. 1996), Bob wrote, "It would be difficult to name the drab Warbling Vireo for plumage characteristics, and even describing its song as 'warbling' involves some hyperbole. Its soft, short jumble of notes seems to emanate mysteriously from high in flood plain cottonwoods, the slow-moving, greenish bird itself blending invisibly into the dappled background." This provides some indication of Bob's ability to use words to evoke images. No doubt his major writing accomplishment in the area of Iowa birds was his authorship of the vireo and warbler sections of this book. If you have not done so, you owe it to yourself to read these accounts.

A couple of long-time IOU members were very influential in Bob's return to birding as he began developing his skills. Francis Moore taught him much about listening to the sounds around him and transformed him from a purely visual person into one that used his other senses to find and identify birds. Tom Kent patiently taught him the value of precision in bird identification and the need for critical evaluation. He was obviously a good student since he was elected to serve on the Iowa Records Committee from 1989 to 1995 and again from 1998 to 2000. Not afraid to venture into new technologies and approaches, in 1986 he became the first person in Iowa to use videotaping to document a rare bird — a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Mississippi River — and more recently has championed the use of the Internet for IOU business and information sharing.

Not only were the aforementioned gentlemen mentors to Cecil, they became good friends and his birding horizons were expanded when he was invited to join them on trips to other parts of the country. He has birded places such as Florida and the Dry Tortugas,

East Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, Southeast Arizona, California, and North Dakota. Although these areas were great birding and he enjoyed the trips immensely, he immediately fell in love with tropical birding and the Mexican culture on his first trip to Mexico. Bob worked on his command of the Spanish language, helped in part by hosting a student from the Mexican state of Colima, and began to share his enthusiasm with a few friends. In February of 1998, he assembled a diverse group of Iowa birders and led the inaugural event of Bob's Budget Birding Tours (and unofficially the first IOU international field trip) to northeastern Mexico. Not only was the birding wonderful but participants also quickly became enamored with their opportunities for interactions with the Mexican people and culture in the many small villages visited. There have been a number of trips since then and his first greeting at IOU meetings these days is usually, "When are you taking another group to Mexico?" The waiting list grows.

Today Bob lives in Des Moines with Mary, his wife of thirty years. Managing a single-person office for the U.S. Department of Commerce, he is the Economic Development Administration's representative for Iowa and Nebraska. Son John, whom many IOU members watched grow up and become a great birder in his own right, is now 25 and a music major at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Daughter Mary Michelle is 21 and lives in Des Moines and 34-year-old stepson Mike lives in Alaska.

Birding with Bob Cecil is a great time whether it is on one of his regularly scheduled Christmas Bird Counts (Keokuk, Saylorville, and Bremer County), scrambling through the poison ivy at Shimek, finding a trail off the beaten track in Mexico, or just exploring some new little patch of woods in Iowa. While he disdains jumping in the car to chase a rare bird more than half an hour away, he tracks trivia like "best species in the same field of view" — Long-tailed Duck and Common Yellowthroat on 20 December near Keokuk, or Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler in the spring of 1984 at Shimek. If his dream of opening a birdwatcher's bed and breakfast in Colima comes to fruition upon retirement from his federal job, the Iowa birding community will be losing one of its most energetic mainstays. On the brighter side, however, is the prospect of creating a stronger Iowa connection to Mexico birding as Bob's Budget Birding Tours takes on a new life.

Always ready to learn something new, Bob's old entomology interests have been partially rekindled as we have recently combined

birds and odonates on our summer explorations. When the opportunity arises, enjoy some time in the field with this man of quick wit and strong political views. You may come away with some of your ideas challenged and perhaps a feeling that there is so much yet to learn, but I can guarantee you will also be invigorated and convinced that this is the greatest hobby in the world.

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Range Expansion of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Iowa

Robert I. Cecil

INTRODUCTION INTO NORTH AMERICA

For generations, people have attempted to complement North America's avifauna through the introduction of new species. James J. Dinsmore (2001) lists seventeen invasive bird species that have occurred in Iowa, a number of which have become established. Among the successful introductions, some, such as Rock Dove, European Starling, and House Sparrow, play a significant, if undesirable, role in Iowa's avifauna, while others are more benign in their presence. In the case of the more aggressive colonizers, their conquest of the state was rapid and complete. The European Starling took fourteen years from its first occurrence in the state in 1922 to be

recorded in every county (Dumont 1945). The first House Sparrow reached Iowa in 1869 and, following subsequent introductions within the state, was considered Iowa's most abundant avian species by 1907 (Anderson 1907). While the Rock Dove's occupation of the state may have been similarly swift, there is no historical information regarding its arrival or spread. The House Finch is perhaps the record-holder among Iowa's invasive species, increasing from a first record in 1982 to a statewide presence by 1991 (Cecil and Dinsmore 1995).

The world range of one of Iowa's most recent invaders, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, is broad, including nearly all of Europe and Asia, as well as parts of Indonesia. It was introduced into North America with the release of twelve birds at Lafayette Park in St. Louis, Missouri on 25 April 1870 (Lang 1992). This was part of a larger introduction of European finches in St. Louis but only the Eurasian Tree Sparrows survived, quickly becoming established. The initial success of the species was probably due in part to the absence of its close relative, the House Sparrow, which did not arrive in St. Louis until seven years later. During that time the Eurasian Tree Sparrow expanded rapidly throughout the city. Following the arrival of the House Sparrow, this initial expansion slowed dramatically, probably due to competition for nest sites. By 1907 they had become established in the Illinois cities of East St. Louis, Alton, Grafton, and Belleville, all within about 20 miles of their original point of release (Bohlen 1989) and moved northward in subsequent decades.

BIOLOGY

The North American population of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow is of the nominate race, *Passer montanus montanus*. This is the most widely distributed race, occurring across much of Asia and northern Europe (Leckie 2001). Like its close relative the House Sparrow, it is a cavity nester, using both natural and artificial nest sites, including bluebird houses. In 1994, three nests were found in bluebird houses near Burlington, indicating that bluebird houses in appropriate habitat should be a good location to search for this species (Fuller 1995). The nest consists of grass and other plant material and is lined with feathers. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow is also attracted to feeders, with many of the Iowa colonies found in association with them. The male has no song, as the term might be generally understood, but may have a large variety of "chirp" notes, which are distinguishable by electronic analysis but indistinguishable to the human ear. The female is

silent (Lang 1992).

Hybridization with House Sparrow is rare, but may occur where the Eurasian Tree Sparrow has no potential mates other than House Sparrows, a situation that may arise in the case of wandering individuals. There was a well-documented case of Eurasian Tree Sparrow/House Sparrow hybridization in Canada (Lang 1992), and a probable hybridization in Minnesota (Granlund 2000).

Lang summarizes research indicating that the North American population of Eurasian Tree Sparrow has undergone morphological and behavioral changes since its arrival here. This ability to physically evolve in response to a dramatic change of environment has also been noted in the House Finch, which was transported from the arid Southwest to Long Island, New York (Cecil and Dinsmore 1995). In the case of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, the North American birds have smaller bills, presumably due to differences in food, and smaller sternums. Worldwide the Eurasian Tree Sparrow has a large repertoire of chirp notes, but analysis reveals that the divergent populations now share relatively few of these notes.

EXPANSION

While the Eurasian Tree Sparrow is thought to be an invasive species by nature, perhaps originally invading Europe from Asia (Lang 1992), its spread from the St. Louis area has been slow. There are several possible causes for this in addition to competition from the House Sparrow, including inbreeding within the limited population or the possibility that the introduction involved birds that were genetically inferior or not genetically predisposed to aggressive colonization. Nevertheless, there is a range increase occurring, characterized by *incremental expansion* into adjacent appropriate habitat, as well as *jump dispersal*, whereby colonizing birds move long distances from the occupied range (Mundinger and Hope 1982).

Incremental Expansion

Expansion by this species has occurred primarily in Illinois, slowly spreading north and east from St. Louis. Its recent Illinois range was benchmarked during the 1986–1991 Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas project (Figure 1, Illinois Department of Natural Resources 2002) and showed that the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was established in Hancock and Henderson counties before their discovery in the Iowa counties just across the Mississippi River (Illinois Department of Natural Resources 1998). Since that time, large populations have

developed at some locations along the edge of this range, such as 500 in fall of 1997 in Montgomery County east of St. Louis (Brock 1998) and 400 during the winter of 1999–2000 in Mason County northeast of St. Louis (Brock 2000). Smaller numbers have occurred outside the mapped range in Mercer, Knox, and DeWitt counties, all north and northeast of St. Louis, and Coles County east of St. Louis. The southern edge of the Illinois population remains Madison County, where it is well established but not expanding.

The bird's expansion in Missouri, limited to a rare presence north of St. Louis along the Mississippi River, has been far slower than in Illinois. An exception to the general rarity is near Alexandria in Clark County, just across the border from Keokuk, where dozens of birds have been found in recent years on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs).

Jump Dispersal

Prior to the mid-1970s, birds appearing long distances from the St. Louis population occurred in southeastern Wisconsin and in scattered locations in eastern Illinois, northeast Missouri, and eastern Kentucky (winter 1977–1978) (Figure 2). While there have been no additional records to the south, the species has continued its forays north. Wisconsin has had three records: (1) one in March 1966 in Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, in southeastern Wisconsin (Robbins 1991); (2) one that appeared for four consecutive winters through 1992 in Pierce County in west central Wisconsin, about fifty miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota (Granlund 1992); and (3) a third on 30 March 1996 in Door County in the northeast (Granlund 1996). Michigan has one record from 14 May 1998 in Marquette County in the northern Upper Peninsula (Granlund 1998). Indiana has one record from 16 February 1996 at Marshall in the east central part of the state (Brock 1996). Minnesota has two records, the first during June 1990 in Eagen, just south of St. Paul (Tessen 1990), and another from 1998 to 2000 in Clay County in the northwest part of the state — the location of the possible House Sparrow/Eurasian Tree Sparrow hybrid (Granlund 2000). Canada has one accepted record from near Winnipeg, Manitoba, about 100 miles north of the Minnesota/North Dakota state line. This bird, a male, remained during 1989 and 1990 and mated with a female House Sparrow producing two broods (Lang 1992).

Westward movement has been almost nonexistent. Missouri's only western records are of six on 15 November 1986 in Montgomery County about seventy-five miles west of St. Louis (Robbins and Easterla 1992), and one on the 1995–1996 Columbia CBC (Easterla

1996) midway between St. Louis and Kansas City. To the south, single birds were seen during the 1970s in St. Francis County, about seventy-five miles south of St. Louis (Robbins and Easterla 1992). While birds venturing far from established populations are of great interest to birders, there is no evidence in North America that the occurrence of jump dispersal has resulted in successful colonization.

THE IOWA EXPERIENCE

Iowa's first Eurasian Tree Sparrows were two found at West Branch in Cedar County from 14 March through early April 1987 (Veal 1987). The birds, evidently a pair, exhibited courtship and nesting behavior, but did not remain. There were no records for two more years, when up to ten were found in December 1989 north of Burlington on Tama Road in Des Moines County (Silcock 1990). Tama Road quickly became the consistent Iowa location for finding this species, and the state's first nesting was confirmed here in 1993 (Dinsmore 1993). During the early 1990s, the species started appearing in the other counties bordering the Mississippi River in southeast Iowa. Many of the initial records of this expansion come from CBC data, but there is some difficulty in determining location and numbers since these records do not specify in which state the birds were found. In the case of the Keokuk counts, a large percentage of the birds were seen in Missouri together with some in Illinois.

The first Lee County record was from 26 December on the 1992–1993 Keokuk CBC, a single bird at a feeder west of Keokuk (Edwards 2002a). For Muscatine, the first CBC record came from Illinois, while Muscatine County's first record was a single bird in January 1994; the same or another bird was later recorded on the 1994–1995 CBC (White 2002). By January 1996, fifty birds were reported here (Silcock 1996b). Louisa County's first record was of two on 13 May 1995 five miles northeast of Oakville (Kent 1995). On 19 February 1999, a bird was found at Cone Marsh, another Louisa County location (Cecil 1999). It is certainly possible that some of these birds represented populations that existed for some time before their discovery. Extralimital reports of this species are frequently from CBCs, presumably because observers who encounter them are checking flocks of House Sparrows, with which the Eurasian Tree Sparrow often associates. Birders rarely check these flocks at other times.

Colonizing birds also veered northwest into Johnson County. The first record was of one on in the western part of the county from

December 1993 to May 1994 (Silcock 1994), followed by one in December 1997 in Iowa City and another a short time later one mile south of the Iowa City wastewater treatment (Dooley 2002b). Then, eight birds were found in mid-February 1999 just south of Iowa City, with another bird found nearby (Cecil 1999). On 3 February 2001, three birds appeared at yet another Johnson County location, this time in the northwestern part of the county (Cecil 2001). The Johnson County records are significant in that they represent a movement away from the Mississippi River flood plain, their usual habitat in Iowa. Iowa's most recent record was from Paton in northeastern Greene County in west-central Iowa, where one was found on 7 April 2001.

Christmas Bird Counts show a steady increase in Eurasian Tree Sparrow numbers, although many birds were not seen in Iowa. Totals for Iowa remained at twenty or fewer birds until the 1993–1994 count when sixty-eight birds were found at four counts. Subsequent totals include 1995–1996, 297 birds at five counts (Silcock 1996a); 1998–1999, 450 at five counts (S. Dinsmore 1999); 2000–2001, 723 at five counts (S. Dinsmore 2001); and 2001–2002, 537 at five counts (Brees 2002).

CURRENT STATUS IN IOWA

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow is now established in Lee, Des Moines, Louisa, and Muscatine counties, and, probably, Johnson County, although there have been no systematic surveys of breeding populations. Recent observations indicate that in Lee County they are found at the south edge of Keokuk, a short distance up the Des Moines River's confluence with the Mississippi River, and in the Mississippi River flood plain south of Ft. Madison. In Des Moines County, they are well established at their traditional location along Tama Road north of Burlington and are presently considered common all along the Mississippi River (Fuller 2002). The most recent Louisa County records at Cone Marsh near the Iowa River are thought to represent a small breeding population (Edwards 2002b; Dooley 2002a). Louisa County birds have also been seen at the Horseshoe Bend and Indian Slough areas, both along the Iowa River and both about five miles from the Mississippi River. Nesting was noted at Horseshoe Bend (Fuller 2002). Muscatine County, based on CBC results, appears to have a stable population, although, as expected, there is a dispersal of the wintering concentrations during the breeding season. Gerald White also has seen birds up to two miles away

from the Mississippi River (White 2002).

THE FUTURE

CBC data indicate that in Iowa the Eurasian Tree Sparrow is increasing in numbers, and observer reports indicate that it is increasing in range. Given its propensity to expand north and east from the original point of introduction, it should be looked for in Scott County; in Illinois, it has been found in Mercer County just south of the Quad Cities. It also has been reported from CBCs at Buffalo (1997–1998) and at Andalusia (1998–1999 through 2000–2001). Both of these counts include portions of Scott County, but also include other jurisdictions. If the Eurasian Tree Sparrow's range expansion continues, Clinton and Jackson counties could be included. While there has been little evidence of a westward movement in Missouri, this may not be the case in Iowa, which, with the Johnson County birds, has the most northwesterly population in North America. If the Johnson County population remains viable, it may join with Mississippi River birds, adding Cedar, Clinton, and possibly Linn Counties to its Iowa range, or possibly continue to follow the Iowa River into Iowa County. Farther south, it may follow the Des Moines River into Van Buren County. It is difficult to imagine its spread beyond southeast Iowa. It has ample opportunity to spread westward in Missouri, but has not done so. For the foreseeable future, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow should remain a southeast Iowa "specialty" and an occasional odd visitor at a distant feeder.

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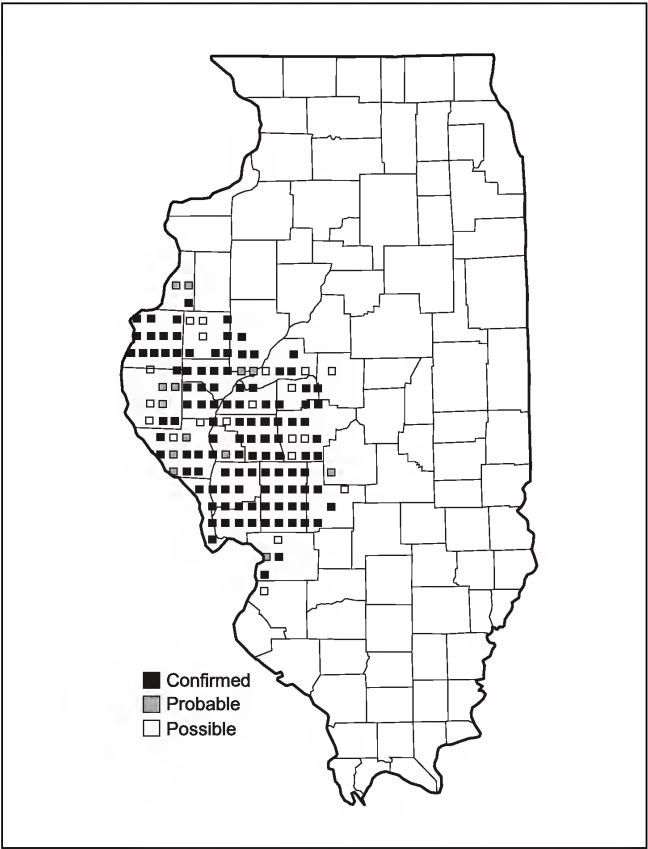


Figure 1. Eurasian Tree Sparrow breeding status from the Illinois Breeding bird Atlas data, 1986–1991 (Illinois Department of Natural Resources 2002)



Figure 2. Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Current range and recent extralimital records.

Field Reports — Spring 2002

Matthew C. Kenne

WEATHER

Winter weather finally arrived in early March with below-zero lows and single-digit highs, reminding us that we do still live in Iowa. This cold snap was then followed by sharp contrasts in temperatures for most of the rest of the month — spring sprung in the south while the north lagged behind 30 or 40 degrees. For example, Leon enjoyed a high of 78 degrees on 14 March while Estherville and Spencer shivered in freezing rain and snow at 32 degrees. This trend continued into April, with snow and 31 degrees on the 1st in Decorah while it was 77 degrees in Shenandoah and Sidney. It reached the 90s by mid-month, but record lows were still being set on 26 April at Estherville (22) and Mason City (23). Below normal temperatures continued through most of May, with hard freezes reported from several locations on the mornings of the 18th through the 21st. Precipitation averaged 4/10ths of an inch less than normal for the spring season, triggering little spring flooding; but the temperatures were only three degrees below normal when averaged across the state. Windy conditions, an obvious feature of springtime in Iowa, were even more obvious this year, with one TV weatherman I saw claiming this was the windiest May since 1970.



Matthew C. Kenne

GENERAL TRENDS

The waterfowl migration was considered very good by most contributors this year and large numbers were widely counted by many observers. There were several reports of duck species lingering in central Iowa into mid- or late May that would normally be farther north. Some unknown combination of factors brought the largest migration of Greater White-fronted Geese through Iowa in recent history, and this migration was also noted in Minnesota with record high counts. We can look forward to our regional report in *North American Birds* for a roundup of other states' sightings and perhaps some analysis as to why phenomenon occurred. Tundra Swans were again found in larger numbers away from their traditional staging

areas on the upper Mississippi River, continuing a recent trend. Shorebirds, unlike waterfowl, were generally confined to a few choice locations because of the mostly drier conditions.

Two invasive species, Great-tailed Grackle and Eurasian Collared-Dove, continued to colonize new areas in the state.

There seemed to be a correlation between temperatures and the passerine migration this year. A dozen species were found on record-early or second-earliest dates with the hot spell in mid-April. After the weather again turned unseasonably cooler, many early migrants lingered until mid-May, and late migrants were reported later and in smaller numbers than usual. The storms and inclement weather of May triggered several good migrant fallouts, and the general consensus was of a good year for finding warblers. Thrushes seemingly bypassed southern areas and concentrated in the north to refuel, but birds like cuckoos and Dickcissels barely reached northern Iowa by the end of the period.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental or Casual species reported this spring include Clark's Grebe, Brant, Barrow's Goldeneye, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Say's Phoebe, Black-billed Magpie, Swainson's Warbler, and Lazuli Bunting. Bar-headed Goose, an Old World species with no vagrancy pattern to North America, was a presumed escapee reported in western Iowa. Some of the many other noteworthy birds reported were several Red-necked Grebes with possible nesting, a Prairie Falcon in Sioux City, Ospreys nesting at Spirit Lake, Piping Plovers migrating through the central part of the state, a flurry of early vireos, Cape May Warblers everywhere, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks in Cedar Rapids.

SPECIES DATA (ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species) (* = documented)

Common Loon: First: 30 Mar at Hallett's Quarry in Ames (WO). Most: 8 on 13 Apr at Storm L. in Buena Vista Co. (LAS). Last: 22 to 25 May at Hallett's Quarry (WO). There were a dozen other reports of 1 to 6 birds.

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 2 on 13 Mar at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPR). Most: 66 on 22 Apr at Amana L. in Iowa Co. (MCD).

Horned Grebe: First: 29 Mar in Linn Co. (MCD). Most, and the only multiple report: 8 on 13 Apr at Storm L. (LAS). Last: 2 May at Blackhawk L. in Sac Co. (RTh). The other 7 singles were spread across the state.

- Red-necked Grebe:** All: 18 Apr at Union Slough NWR (MM), 21 Apr at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. (PE), 21 Apr at Prairie L. in Blackhawk Co. (TS), 21 Apr at Pleasant Creek RA in Linn Co. (TS), 23 to 24 Apr at Mason City (RGo, CJF, PH), and 10 May at Spirit L. (ET_H). One bird first seen on 21 Apr at Cheever L. in Emmet Co. (LAS) became at least one nest-building pair in early May (LAS, ET_H). At least 3 birds were at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 26 May (MPr), also indicating possible nesting.
- Eared Grebe:** First: 5 Apr in Warren Co. (JG). Most: 9 on 5 May at Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS) and 9 on 25 May at Hallett's Quarry (WO). Reported from a dozen other locations, mostly in the NW and EC.
- Western Grebe:** First: 3 on 24 Apr at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (LJP, BKP). Most: 4 at Coralville Res. on 10 May (THK). Last: 15 May at L. Manawa (LJP, BKP). There were 10 other reports of 1 or 2 birds.
- CLARK'S GREBE:** A bird present from 29 Apr to 2 May in Warren Co. caused debate by showing a head pattern intermediate with Western Grebe (AB*, AJ*, RIA-photo, KN-photo). A second Clark's was documented 8 to 10 May near Mount Pleasant (MCD*, JR*, SJD).
- American White Pelican:** Most: 1,000 on 6 Apr at Badger L. in Monona Co. (GLV). The largest concentrations reported at the major reservoirs were only 400 birds.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** First: 14 on 29 Mar at Storm L. (MPr). Most: 115 on 24 Apr at L. Manawa (LJP, BKP).
- American Bittern:** 1 to 3 birds reported at 10 locations from 13 Apr to 25 May.
- Least Bittern:** The only reports were singles on 2 and 11 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).
- Great Blue Heron:** First: 11 Mar at Diamond L. (MPr).
- Great Egret:** First: 3 on 30 Mar at Cone Marsh in Louisa Co. (CE). Most: 130 on 23 Apr at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. (TJ).
- Snowy Egret:** All: 30 Apr at MidAmerican Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (LJP, BKP) and 15 May at Mill Creek SP in O'Brien Co. (DK).
- Little Blue Heron:** All: 18 to 20 Apr in Warren Co. (JSi, RIA-photo) and 24 Apr at Polk City WA in Polk Co. (MPr).
- Cattle Egret:** First: 14 Apr at Big Wall L. in Wright Co. (JJD). The high count of 8 birds was reported from 3 locations.
- Green Heron:** First: 16 Apr at Hawkeye WA in Johnson Co. (CE) and 18 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** First: 5 on 15 Apr at Zirbel Slough in Cerro Gordo Co. (GLV). Most: 14 on 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC, TJ). There were 8 other reports of 1 to 3 birds.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Only report: 2 on 5 May in Wayne Co. (AB).
- White-faced Ibis:** 1 to 9 birds reported from 9 locations 28 Apr to 22 May.
- Turkey Vulture:** First: 12 Mar at Fairfield (DG). Nests with eggs were found in Wapello Co. (Dan Fisher fide JJD) and Wayne Co. (AB).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Huge numbers migrated through the state in March with six counts of over 1,000 birds. Most: 6,000 on 23 Mar on Clay and Palo Alto county wetlands (LAS).

Snow Goose: Peak numbers reported through central Iowa. Most: 5,000 on 15 Mar at Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (RTh).

Ross's Goose: Most: 93 on 25 Mar at Nobles L. in Harrison Co. (JJo). A rare blue morph Ross's Goose described by Joel Jorgensen on 23 Mar at Nobles L. is the first for Iowa that I'm aware of. The peak in eastern Iowa was 24 birds on 6 Apr at Amana L. (CE). 3 were still present with 47 Snow Geese on 14 May at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (PH, MCK).

BRANT: 1 mingled with Canadian Geese on 16 Mar at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH*).

Mute Swan: All: 2 on 3 Apr in Buchanan Co. (MPR) and 3 on 29 May in Floyd Co. (RGo).

Trumpeter Swan: Of several reports, only two stated that the birds lacked bands/tags/markers: 4 on 30 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), and 1 on 26 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh in Tama Co. (CE).

Tundra Swan: No counts from the traditional Mississippi R. staging area in Allamakee Co., but big numbers were reported "inland": 21 on 14 Mar at Swan L. in Carroll Co. were the first seen there in years (RTh), 80 on 25 Mar at Clear L. (CJF), 8 were found as far west as Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on 25 Mar (GLV), and 218 on 27 Mar at Union Slough NWR (MM) were 3 times the old high count. On 9 Apr,

300 flew over Dorchester in Allamakee Co. (Jill Stephensen fide DC) and 75 were at Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC).

Gadwall: Most: 500 on 5 Apr at Cone Marsh (CE), 400 on 6 Apr at East Twin L. in Hancock Co. (JJD), and 400 on 6 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

American Wigeon: Most: 400 on 6 Apr at East Twin L. (JJD).

American Black Duck: 16 birds reported from 7 locations are more than usual. Last: 4 May at Banner Pits in Warren Co. (MPR).

Mallard: Most: 18,952 on 27 Mar at Union Slough NWR (MM).

Blue-winged Teal: First: 13 Mar at L. Red Rock (MPR) and 3 on 13 Mar in Warren Co. (AB). Most: 627 on 26 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Cinnamon Teal: A drake from 15 Apr to 1 May at Sedan Bottoms was seen by many attending the IOU Spring Meeting (RLC, TJ, mob).

Northern Shoveler: Most: 1,017 on 7 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE) and 629 on 22 Apr at L. Red Rock (AB).

Northern Pintail: Most: 700 on 15 Mar at Dunbar Slough (RTh) and 522 on 27 Mar at Union Slough NWR (MM).

Green-winged Teal: Most: 1,035 on 7 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE).

Canvasback: Most: 21,000 at Pool 19 of the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 8 Mar (RLC) and 1,104 on 27 Mar at Union Slough NWR (MM).

Ring-necked Duck: Most: 2,500 on 23 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Greater Scaup: 7 reports of 2 to 14 birds. Last: 7 on 16 May at New L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Lesser Scaup: Large counts spanned the state: 3,000 on 30 Mar in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 2,400 on 2 Apr at New L. (AB), and 15,000 on 13 Apr at Pool 19 (CE).

White-winged Scoter: Only one scoter reported this spring: a first alternate male 10 May at Pool 19 (SJD).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 23 Mar in Delaware Co. (MPr), 25 to 30 Mar at Green Valley L. in Union Co. (AB, BE), and 12 Apr in Polk Co. (TR).

Bufflehead: Last: 26 May at Meredith Marsh in Hancock Co. (MPr) and 31 May at Pine L. SP in Hardin Co. (MPr).

Common Goldeneye: Most: 600 on 8 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC). Last: 17 May in Warren Co. (AB). A drake Common Goldeneye – Hooded Merganser hybrid paired with a female Common Goldeneye was observed on 29 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPr-details).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: The Woodbury Co. bird from the winter season was reported from New L. and Port Neil generating station in Plymouth Co. without details until 27 Apr (Paul Lehman fide THK, BFH).

Hooded Merganser: Most: 300 on 23 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Common Merganser: Most: 3,500 on 23 Mar at Saylorville L. (BE).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 3 on 8 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC). Most: 276 on 23 Mar at Saylorville L. (BE). Last: 23 to 24 May in Hardin Co. (RIA, PHA, MPr).

Ruddy Duck: Most: 544 on 7 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE) and 745 on 17 Apr in Lee Co. (AB).

Osprey: 2 were nest-building at a school in Spirit Lake on 17 Apr and incubating eggs at the end of the period (ET_H). The nest site at Cayler Prairie in Dickinson Co. was usurped by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks (ET_H).

Mississippi Kite: 13 May in Henry Co. (RIA, PHA). Kites returned to the area of the Wakonda golf course in Des Moines (Amy Offenberger, pers. com.), but any nesting was unreported.

Northern Harrier: Probable nesting was noted in Wayne Co. with 4 pairs still present in May (AB). 3 nests were found in northwestern Iowa in late May (T.J. Benson fide JJD).

Cooper's Hawk: Nests were noted in Ida (PE), Dickinson (ET_H, LAS), and Warren (JSi) counties.

Northern Goshawk: 6 Apr at the Hooper Area in Warren Co. (JSi).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 20 Mar at Dudgeon L. in Benton Co. (MCD), 29 Mar at Sweet Marsh in Bremer Co. (JoS), 4 Apr at Stephens SF in Lucas Co. (AB), and 14 Apr along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Broad-winged Hawk: Most: 54 on 30 Apr at Stephens SF (AB). Possible nesting was noted at L. Minnewashta in Dickinson Co. on 25 May (ET_H).

Swainson's Hawk: All: 20 Apr at Hitchcock NA in Pottawattamie Co. (MO), 21 Apr in Mills Co. (LJP, BKP), 25 Apr in Wayne Co. (AB), 2 May at A.A. Call SP in Kossuth Co. (MCK), and 3 to 13 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, PH, CJF, CN).

Rough-legged Hawk: Last: 30 Apr at Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (RTH) and 3 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

- Golden Eagle:** All: 11 Mar in Lucas Co. (AB), 29 Mar at Sweet Marsh (JoS), 20 Apr at Ledges SP in Boone Co. (RTh), and 26 Apr in Davis Co. (JSi).
- Merlin:** 13 singles reported from across the state. Last: 11 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo).
- Peregrine Falcon:** First: 13 Mar at Lansing (FL). There were seventeen April and May reports. Most: 3 on 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Prairie Falcon:** 8 to 11 Mar at Sioux City (BFH, GLV).
- Gray Partridge:** Few reported. Lee Schoenewe found none during the period in NW Iowa, normally a population stronghold.
- Ruffed Grouse:** 1 on 19 May in Allamakee Co. was the first bird the Snyders have seen in 2 years (BSn), and the first spring report in 3 years.
- Greater Prairie Chicken:** 8 on 30 Mar and 11 on 20 Apr near Kellerton (BE, AB).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Only northern reports: near Garnaville in Clayton Co. on 30 Apr (DA) and in Plymouth Co. on 22 May (JJD).
- Virginia Rail:** First: 30 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo) and 3 May in Hancock Co. (PH).
- Sora:** First: 16 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo) and 2 on 18 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh (CE).
- Common Moorhen:** 5 on 14 May at Goose L. in Clinton Co. and 2 on 14 May at Green Island in Jackson Co. (both CE). Also 24 May at Hawkeye WA in Johnson Co. (MCD).
- American Coot:** Most: 1,900 on 6 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 2,000 on 12 Apr in Johnson Co. (MCD).
- Sandhill Crane:** Birds from the flock of 8 that wintered in Hamilton Co. were seen by many until 20 Mar. Widely scattered sightings occurred across eastern Iowa with some indications of nesting in known areas. Also, a new nesting location: 2 chicks hatched N of Lansing (RZ). Largest flock in the West: 26 on 2 Apr over Broken Kettle Grasslands in Plymouth Co. (AB).
- Black-bellied Plover:** First: 5 on 6 May at Badger L. (GLV). Most: 12 on 14 May at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 4 on 27 May at Union Slough NWR (MCK).
- American Golden-Plover:** Migrating flocks were scarce this year. First: 2 on 6 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Most: 40 on 11 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, CJF, RGo).
- Semipalmated Plover:** First: 3 on 26 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 127 at Myre Slough in Winnebago Co. (PH) and 100 at Coralville Res. (THK), both on 7 May. Last: 30 May at Zirbel Slough (PH).
- Piping Plover:** All: 1 to 3 on 21 Apr to 24 May at MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (LJP, BKP, JJD) and 3 to 5 on 23 Apr to 13 May at the Port Neil generating station in Plymouth Co. (GLV, BFH) — both possible nesting locations; 3 on 30 Apr at Saylorville L. (DT), 1 on 9 May at Myre Slough (RIA, PHA), 1 on 10 May at Clear L. (RGo, CJF, PH), 1 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (MCD), and 1 at Saylorville L. on 11 May (JJD, SJD).

American Avocet: First and most: 16 on 21 Apr at MidAmerican Ponds (LJP, BKP). Last: 3 at 3-Mile L. in Union Co. (JJD) and 5 at Coralville Res. (MCD), both on 14 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 14 Mar at Otter Creek Marsh (MPR). Most: 51 on 6 May near Runnells (AB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 5 on 29 Mar at Otter Creek Marsh (MCD). Most: 850 at Myre Slough on 7 May (PH). Last: 2 on 27 May at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 16 Apr at Hawkeye WA (CE). Most: 19 on 6 May at L. Red Rock (AB). Last: 29 May at Hallett's Quarry (WO) [record latest]

Willet: First: 21 Apr at MidAmerican Ponds (LJP, BKP). Most: 30 on 26 Apr at Riverton WA in Fremont Co. (LJP, BKP) and 24 on 29 Apr in Lucas Co. (AB). Last: 4 on 24 May at Big Wall L. (AJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: 18 Apr in Marion Co. (AB). Most: 17 on 14 May at Coralville Res. (THK).

Upland Sandpiper: First: 3 on 13 Apr in Decatur Co. (RLC).

WHIMBREL: Two reports: 7 on 23 May at Riverton WA (RT*) and 1 on 27 May at Port Neil (J. D. Phillips*) [ties second latest].

Hudsonian Godwit: First: 11 on 26 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (JSi). Most: 27 on 11 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 21 May at Eagle Lake Flats (RGo, MCK).

Marbled Godwit: First: 18 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh (JLF). Most: 18 on 14 May at Union Slough NWR (PH, MCK). Last: 18 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Ruddy Turnstone: First: 11 May at Hawkeye WA (JLF) and Port Neil (GLV). Most: 21 on 23 May at Riverton WA (RT). Last: 10 on 29 May at Spirit L. (ETh).

RED KNOT: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Sanderling: First: 1 May at Hawkeye WA (JLF). Most: 10 on 14 May at Green Island (CE). Last: 27 May at the Lytton sewage lagoon (PE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 2 on 25 Apr at L. Red Rock (AB). Most: 500 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD).

Western Sandpiper: All: 26 Apr at MidAmerican Ponds (LJP, BKP), 3 May at Badger L. in Monona Co. (BFH), and 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: First: 4 on 21 Apr at Colo Ponds (TR). Most: 300 at Myre Slough on 18 May (PH). Last: 3 on 27 May at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 6 on 29 Apr at L. Red Rock (AB) [ties third earliest]. Most: 580 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 4 Apr near Runnells (AB). 2 on 13 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last and most: 15 on 18 May at Myre Slough (PH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 4 on 29 Mar at Otter Creek Marsh (MCD). Most: 1,500 on 7 May at Coralville Res. (THK) and 1,500 on 18 May at Myre Slough (PH). Last: 3 on 30 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Dunlin: First: 2 on 19 Apr at Coralville Res. (MCD). Most: 184 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD). 100 were still at Myre Slough on 28 May (MPR).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: 1 on 6 to 7 May at a drained pond near L. Red Rock is the third state record (AB*, THK*, AJ*, RIA*, PHA*, JJD*, KN-photo).

- Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 11 to 18 Apr near Runnells (AB-photo) [record early]. Most: 161 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD). Last: 2 on 30 May at Zirbel Slough (PH).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Only report: 1 on 13 May in Allamakee Co. (RZ).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 3 May at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Most: 27 on 10 May at Zirbel Slough (PH). Last: 7 on 27 May at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 2 on 23 Mar at Riverton WA (LJP, BKP) [ties record early]. Peak: 26 Apr to 6 May with 5 reports of 24 to 53 birds. Last: 29 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD).
- Common Snipe:** First: 23 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Most: 73 on 12 Apr at Coralville Res. (MCD).
- American Woodcock:** Nests with fledglings found 29 Apr at L. Rathbun (TR) and 11 May at Ledges SP (SJD, JJD).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Widely reported. First: 7 on 23 Apr at New L. (GLV). Most: 223 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD). Last: 3 on 31 May in Hardin Co. (MPR).
- Red-necked Phalarope:** All: 10 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 13 May at Riverton WA (SJD), 3 on 14 May at Union Slough NWR (PH, MCK), and 1 on 21 May at Crystal Hills WA in Hancock Co. (RGo, MCK).
- Franklin's Gull:** First: 8 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC). Most: 1,050 on 28 Apr at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. (PH).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 6 Apr at Amana L. (CE). Most: 225 on 22 Apr at Saylorville L. (AB).
- Ring-billed Gull:** Most: 2,700 on 26 Mar in Marion Co. (AB).
- Thayer's Gull:** 1 adult on 3 Mar at Lock and Dam 14 on the Miss. R. in Scott Co., 1 adult and 1 1st-yr on 3 Mar at L&D 15 on the Miss. R. in Scott Co., 2 adults and 1 1st-yr on 7 Mar at L&D 15, 1 adult on 10 Mar at L&D 14, and 2 1st-yr on 10 Mar at L&D 15 (all SFr), and 1 1st-yr at L. Red Rock 19 Mar to 12 Apr (AB-photo) [second latest].
- Glaucous Gull:** 1 2nd-yr on 3 and 10 Mar at L&D 15 (SFr), 1 1st-yr on 4 Apr at L. Red Rock (AB-details), and probably the same 1st-yr on 7 Apr at Big Creek SP in Polk Co. (DT*) [second latest].
- Caspian Tern:** First: 11 on 30 Apr at MidAmerican Ponds (LJP, BKP). Most: 24 on 10 May at Saylorville L. (SJD) and 28 on 12 May at L. Red Rock (AB). Last: 5 on 31 May at West Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (ETH).
- Common Tern:** More reports than usual. 14 observations 10 to 30 May of up to 6 birds with few supporting details.
- Forster's Tern:** First: 11 to 12 Apr at L. Red Rock (AB). Most: 500 on 13 May at Ventura Marsh in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Least Tern:** 2 on 19 May at MidAmerican Ponds (RIA, PHA) and 1 also at MidAmerican Ponds on 27 May (LJP, BKP).
- Black Tern:** First: 16 on 8 May in Warren Co. (JSi). Most: 2,500 on 13 May at Ventura Marsh (PH).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** New county records at Oxford in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK, MCD), Danbury in Ida Co. (RTh), and Columbus Junction in Louisa Co. (JLF), and continued presence in

- Boone, Monroe, Poweshiek, Kossuth, and Dickinson counties (MPr, JJD, AB, PH, MCK, ETh).
- Mourning Dove:** The incubation of eggs in the first week of Mar at Iowa City testifies to the mildness of the winter (JiW).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** A few singles the second half of May. First: 17 May at Hickory Hill Pk in Iowa City (MCD).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Only a few singles before the end of the period. First: 8 May at Grammer Grove WA in Marshall Co. (BPr).
- Barn Owl:** None reported.
- Great Horned Owl:** A bird of the pale Arctic race noted 8 Mar in Dickinson Co. (ETh).
- Snowy Owl:** Only report: 4 Apr near Albia in Poweshiek Co. (DaT).
- Long-eared Owl:** Most: 6 on 30 Mar at L. Rathbun (TR). 1 to 2 birds at 8 other locations. Last: 14 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Short-eared Owl:** 1 Apr in Bremer Co. (KN) and 13 Apr near Corydon (TJ). Several sightings near Kellerton from 30 Mar through the period probably indicate nesting (AB, RIA, PHA, Rolf Koford fide JJD).
- Common Nighthawk:** First: 4 May in Wayne Co. (AB).
- Chuck-will's-widow:** 2 on 13 May at the regular Waubonsie SP location (SJD).
- Whip-poor-will:** First: 4 on 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 26 to 27 Apr in Wapello Co. for the IOU Spring Meeting (AB, PH, MPr).
- Chimney Swift:** First: 3 on 17 Apr at Keokuk (AB). Most: 200 in late Apr at Ames (HZ).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First: 30 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Last: 26 May at Pilot Knob SP in Winnebago Co. (MPr) and 2 on 27 May at Cherokee (DBi) were possible nesters, while 5 on 31 May in Allamakee Co. were definitely in breeding range (PH).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** At the NW corner of the Iowa range, one hit a window of the Greg and Wendy Sander home near Estherville and recovered (fide ETh).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 5 May at Smith WA in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 27 May in Wayne Co. (AB).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** First: 8 May at Croton Unit of Shimek SF in Lee Co. and Lacey-Keosauqua SP in Van Buren Co. (AB).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 15 May at Backbone SP in Delaware Co. (MPr). Most: 6 at Algona on 29 May (MCK).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** First: 8 May at Croton Unit and Lacey-Keosauqua SP (AB). 1 was out of range in Cerro Gordo Co. on 12 May (CRN).
- Alder Flycatcher:** First: 24 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 17 at Algona on 29 May (MCK).
- Willow Flycatcher:** First: 3 on 21 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 6 on 30 May at Cardinal Marsh (DC).
- Least Flycatcher:** First: 30 Apr at Stephen's SF in Lucas Co. (AB). Most: 50 on 27 May at Burt L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Eastern Phoebe:** First: 2 on 16 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- SAY'S PHOEBE:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** First: 20 Apr in Ringgold Co. (AB-details, JSi) [record early].

- Western Kingbird:** First: 2 on 4 May at MidAmerican Ponds (LJP, BKP). Also reported from Polk, Cerro Gordo, Woodbury, Mills, and O'Brien counties (RIA, PHA, PH, RGo, BFH, JJD, DBi).
- Eastern Kingbird:** First: 23 Apr at Chariton (AB) and 25 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** 11 reports from central and southern Iowa.
- White-eyed Vireo:** 1 was out of range on 18 May at Coon Creek WA in Winneshiek Co. (DK). Also reported from Wapello, Lucas, Johnson, Marshall, and Van Buren counties (PH, MPr, RIA, PHA, CE, AJ).
- Bell's Vireo:** First: 4 May in Warren Co. (JG). Most: 6 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Also reported from Woodbury, Hardin, and Polk counties (JSi, PH, AJ, BE, DT).
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** First: 20 Apr in Ringgold Co. (AB-details, JSi) [record early]. Also 2 on 23 Apr at Stephens SF (AB) [ties third earliest]. Most: 12 on 4 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** First: 17 Apr at Urbandale (BE) [record early]. Most: 9 on 12 May at Smith WA (MCK). Last: 26 May at Pilot Knob SP (MPr) and 27 May at Burt L. (MCK).
- Warbling Vireo:** First: 2 on 17 Apr at Heron Bend in Lee Co. and 2 on 17 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (both AB-details) [record early]. Also 23 Apr at Hawkeye WA (CE) [ties third earliest] and 2 on 24 Apr below the Saylorville dam (MPr).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** 21 birds reported — far more than usual. First: 7 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH) and 9 May in Urbandale (BE). Last: 27 May at Burt L. (MCK).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** First: 5 May in Cass Co. (MAP). Most: 100 on 27 May at Burt L. (MCK).
- BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:**
Reported from the usual area in Plymouth Co. 15 Mar (Paul Lehman fide THK) and 2 Apr (AB).
- Purple Martin:** First: 3 on 5 Apr in Wayne Co. (AB).
- Tree Swallow:** First: 2 on 15 Mar at Cone Marsh (MCD). Most: 3,000 on 21 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:**
First: 2 on 7 Apr at Round L. in Harrison Co. (JJo). Most: 1,000 on 21 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE). This is a very large gathering for spring, probably the highest number ever reported in our *North American Birds* region (Ed. — Ken Brock, pers. com.).
- Bank Swallow:** First: 4 on 30 Apr at Pine L. SP (MPr). Most: 1,600 on 10 May at Pool 19 (SJD).
- Cliff Swallow:** First: 15 to 17 Apr at Iowa City (THK, JPB). Most: 400 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 300 on 20 May at Cardinal Marsh (DC).
- Barn Swallow:** First: 13 Apr at Sandhill L. (BFH).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Out of range at Mason City on 15 Mar (CJF), and still in Cerro Gordo Co. on 18 May (RGo).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 4 singles still lingered until the last half of May. Last: 27 May at Mason City (CJF).

Brown Creeper: Like sapsuckers, possible nesting in northern Iowa: 2 on 14 May at Algona (PH, MCK), and singles on 18 May at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. (LAS) and Grammer Grove (MPR).

Carolina Wren: 6 reports, with 1 in the west on 17 Apr at Merritt Access in Carroll Co. (MPR).

Bewick's Wren: Reported from the usual junkyard spot near the Croton Unit of Shimek SF; and also 29 to 31 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF, RIA, PHA).

House Wren: First: 15 Apr at Iowa City (JLF). Then 4 more reports 16 to 18 Apr.

Winter Wren: Few reports. First: 30 Mar at Grammer Grove SP (MPR). Last: 3 May at A.A. Call SP (MCK).

Sedge Wren: First: 26 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh (CE).

Marsh Wren: First: 2 on 26 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 19 Mar at Pine L. SP (MPR). Most: 25 on 7 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 31 Mar at Burr Oak (Lee Zieke fide DC). Most: 30 on 20 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 17 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 2 on 12 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DCP).

Veery: More reports than usual. I normally find a couple migrant birds in a spring, but this year I had three 2-Veery days and a single and Rita Goranson noted the same in Cerro Gordo Co. First: 7 May at Grammer Grove (BPr) and 8 May at Parker's Woods (RGo) in Mason City. Most: 3 on 15 May at Backbone SP (MPR).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 1 May at Grammer Grove (MPR) and Smith WA (MCK). Most: 4 on 18 May at A.A. Call SP (MCK). Last: 2 on 27 May at Burt L. (MCK).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 1 May at Grammer Grove WA (MPR) and 10 on 1 May at Smith WA (MCK). Most: 33 on 17 May and 45 on 18 May at A.A. Call SP (MCK). Last: 6 on 29 May at Algona (MCK).

Hermit Thrush: First: 2 Apr at Parker's Woods at Mason City (RGo) and 4 Apr at Iowa City (THK). Most: 18 on 7 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 7 May at Grammer Grove WA (BPr).

Wood Thrush: First: 4 May in Wayne Co. (AB) and Parker's Woods (RGo). Most: 30 on 11 May at Hitchcock NA in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Gray Catbird: First: 2 on 25 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DCP) and 3 on 28 Apr at Algona (MCK).

Northern Mockingbird: Found in the NW: 16 Apr at Paullina (DK), 23 May near Cherokee (JJD), and 27 May at Smith's Slough in Clay Co. (LAS).

Brown Thrasher: First: 2 on 23 Mar at Fairfield (DCP).

American Pipit: First: 3 on 16 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Most: 6 on 27 Apr in Wapello Co. (PH). Last: 27 May at Cardinal Marsh (DC*) [record latest].

Cedar Waxwing: Most: 50 on 27 May at Folsom Prairie in Mills Co. (LJP, BKP).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 25 Apr at Stephens SF (AB) and 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (MPR).

Golden-winged Warbler: Rather common. Mike Dooley found 10 birds in Johnson Co. in a 2-week period. First: 1 May in Wayne Co.

(AB). Most: 5 on 11 May at Macbride RA in Johnson Co. (CE) and 5 on 20 May at Ames (AB). Last: 22 May at Grammer Grove WA (MPr).

Tennessee Warbler: A few observers noted that Tennessees seemed reluctant to sing this year, or maybe it was just a late arrival of peak numbers. First: 28 Apr in Van Buren Co. (RLC). Most: 30 on 27 May at Burt L. (MCK). 5 were still in Allamakee Co. on 31 May (PH).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 15 Apr at Parker's Woods (RGo) [ties third earliest], followed by 16 Apr at Hawkeye WA (CE) and Moorehead Pk in Ida Co. (PE). Last: 2 on 16 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Nashville Warbler: First: 26 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Most: 10 on 7 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Northern Parula: First: 12 Apr at L. Ahquabi in Warren Co. (JSi) [ties second earliest]. Most: 12 on 17 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (AB).

Yellow Warbler: First: 2 May at Hawkeye WA (CE) and 4 May at Urbandale (BE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 2 on 5 May at Smith WA (MCK) and 2 on 6 May at Parker's Woods (RGo). Most: 24 on 17 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 31 May in Allamakee Co. (PH).

Magnolia Warbler: First: singles 4 May in Wayne and Lucas counties (AB) and 5 May at Algona (MCK) and Parker's Woods (RGo). Most: 6 on 16 May at Moorehead Pk (PE). Last: 30 May at Algona (MCK).

Cape May Warbler: Commonly reported in ones and twos across the eastern two-thirds of the state. Mark Proescholdt found 8 in east central Iowa, including the first: 7 May at Pine L. SP and the last: 24 May, also at Pine L. SP.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Only one: 19 May in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 7 Apr at Mason City (CJF). Big numbers this year: 450 on 9 May along one-fourth mile in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), "hundreds" on 9 May at Lake View (PE), and 250 on 11 May at Hitchcock NA (MO). 7 stragglers at 6 locations were reported 20 to 24 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 1 May at Fairfield (DCP). Most: 8 on 17 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 29 May at A.A. Call SP (MCK).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 1 May in Wayne Co. (AB). Most: 6 on 17 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 26 May in Dubuque Co. (PE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reported from usual locations; these now include Lansing, in Allamakee Co., where they've been regular for 4 to 5 years (RZ). First: 4 on 17 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (AB).

Pine Warbler: All: 12 Apr at North Liberty (RJH-details) [record early], 10 May at Lake Darling SP in Washington Co. (SJD), 11 May at Coralville Res. (MCD-details), and 15 May at Parker's Woods in Mason City (CJF*, RGo-details).

Prairie Warbler: None reported, but see the Summer 2002 Field Reports.

Palm Warbler: First: 17 Apr at Parker's Woods (RGo-details) [record early]. Most: 50 on 12 May at Eagle Point Pk in Dubuque Co. (CLW). Last: 21 May at Eagle Lake in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 16 birds reported from 13 locations. First: 8 May at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC). Last: 24 May at Parker's Woods (RGo). From the west: 16 May at Bacon Creek Pk (GLV).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 5 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most: 15 on 17 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 27 May in Linn Co. (MCD) and 29 May at Algona (MCK).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 26 Apr in Allamakee Co. (BSn). Late birds searching far and wide for mates: 19 May at A.A. Call SP (MCK), 20 May in Carroll Co. (RTh), and 21 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 16 Apr at Hawkeye WA (CE). Last: 27 May at Burt L. (MCK).

American Redstart: First: 3 May at Sedan Bottoms (AB) and 4 May at Jester Pk in Polk Co. (BE). Most: 40 on 17 May at Coralville Res. (CE).

Prothonotary Warbler: The first was reported in the north: 2 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Worm-eating Warbler: Out of range birds were at Ledges SP on 11 May (SJD) and Dolliver SP in Webster Co. on 25 May (PE).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Ovenbird: First: 3 on 22 Apr at Stephens SF (AB) [ties third earliest]. Most: 35 on 11 May at Hitchcock NA (MO).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 1 May at Parker's Woods (RGo) and 2 on 1 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Most: 12 on 10 May at Dunbar Slough (DT).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 3 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DCP). Birds found in Ringgold, Warren, Lucas, and Wayne counties (AB) might indicate sporadic nesting away from their usual Des Moines R. range in southern Iowa. Definitely out of range was 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. 20 to 22 Apr (PH, RGo).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 26 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Early and out of range 29 Apr along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Connecticut Warbler: 7 reports of 1 to 2 birds. First: 17 May at Hawkeye WA (CE) and Hickory Hill Pk in Iowa City (MCD). Last: 29 May at Mines of Spain in Dubuque Co. (CLW).

Mourning Warbler: First: 12 May at Smith WA (MCK) and 14 May at Mason City (CJF, RGo). 4 were still at Grammer Grove WA on 29 May (MPr).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 6 on 24 Apr in Wayne Co. (AB).

Hooded Warbler: All: 19 Apr and 16 May at L. Ahquabi (JSi, AB), 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF), 10 May at Walnut Woods in Des Moines (DT), and 27 May in Lee Co. (AJ).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 5 to 6 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo). Last: 29 May at Hawkeye WA (MCD).

Canada Warbler: First: 10 May at Jefferson Co. Pk (SJD) [ties third earliest]. Last: 25 May at Parker's Woods (RGo).

- Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: 8 May at Croton Unit (AB), 11 May in Warren Co. (JSi), 13 May in Story Co. (MPr), out of range at Mill Creek SP in O'Brien Co. on 18 May (LAS), 22 May at Starr's Cave in Des Moines Co. (MCD), and 26 and 29 May at Croton Unit (AJ, JLF).
- Summer Tanager:** All: 11 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 13 May at Geode SP in Henry Co. (CE), 17 May in Warren Co. (JG), 22 May at Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide MPr), and 26 and 29 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (AJ, JLF).
- Scarlet Tanager:** First: a female 20 Apr at Hitchcock NA (MO-details) [second earliest]. A rare orange variant male was noted by Diane Porter 18 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP.
- Spotted Towhee:** 9 birds were reported from the western half of Iowa. First: 2 on 15 Mar in Plymouth Co. (Paul Lehman fide THK). Last: 11 May at Hitchcock NA (MO).
- Eastern Towhee:** First: 3 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DCP). Most: 14 on 4 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- American Tree Sparrow:** Last: 2 on 7 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Chipping Sparrow:** A bird that wintered in the area was last seen 16 Mar at Garnavillo (DA-details). First migrants: 6 on 12 Apr at Goose L. (CE).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** First: 15 Apr at Algona (MCK-details) [second earliest] and 18 Apr at Iowa City (THK) [third earliest]. Most: 14 on 12 May at Algona (MCK). Last: 30 May at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. (PH).
- Field Sparrow:** First: 7 Apr at Mason City (CJF) and 2 on 7 Apr at Round L. in Harrison Co. (JJo).
- Vesper Sparrow:** First: 30 Mar in Keokuk Co. (CE) and 5 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Lark Sparrow:** Reported from Appanoose, Lee, Marion, Warren, Cerro Gordo, Polk, Pottawattamie, Cass, Carroll, and Woodbury counties (AB, JG, TJ, CN, RLC, DT, MO, MAP, PH).
- Savannah Sparrow:** First: 29 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** A recent increase in numbers from Conservation Reserve Program land, or are more birders learning how to find them? Reports of small numbers from 7 southern counties and good numbers from Wayne Co. — 54 individual birds during the period, with 42 counted on 24 Apr (AB).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** All: 14 Apr at Errington Marsh in Polk Co. (DT), 15 May at Lakin Slough in Guthrie Co. (AB), and 27 May at Folsom Prairie in Mills Co. (LJP-details, BKP) [record latest].
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 3 on 11 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo) and 1 on 14 May at Eagle L. in Kossuth Co. (PH, MCK).
- Fox Sparrow:** Most: 10 on 6 Apr at Wexford (FL) and 10 on 8 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 3 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CN-details) [second latest].
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 2 on 17 Apr in Calhoun Co. (MPr). Last: 21 May at Crystal L. in Hancock Co. (MCK, RGo).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Last: 31 May in Allamakee Co. (PH).

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 14 May at Algona (MCK) and Mason City (RGo).

White-crowned Sparrow: First: 2 on 6 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 14 May at Algona (MCK) and Mason City (RGo).

Dark-eyed Junco: 6 were reported in May. Last: 20 May at Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide MPr) and Burr Oak (Lindsay Lee fide DC).

Lapland Longspur: Only large flock: 200 on 1 Apr in Bremer Co. (KN).

Smith's Longspur: All: 4 to 5 on 14 to 15 Apr at Union Hills in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, RGo, PH), 11 and 22 on 20 Apr at Sandbar Slough in Dickinson Co. (ETh and LAS), and 29 on 28 Apr at Swan L. WPA in Emmet Co. (LAS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 20 Apr at North Liberty (RJH-details) [record early].

Blue Grosbeak: A pair was out of range at Squaw Creek Pk in Linn Co. on 27 to 28 May (MCD, CE)

LAZULI BUNTING: All: 1 May in Decatur Co. (AJ*, RIC*), 17 May at Kattleson-Hogsback in Dickinson Co. (ETh-details), 18 May at Ames (David Farmer*), and 28 May at Ames (WO*).

Indigo Bunting: First: 26 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF), 27 Apr at Pioneer Ridge in Wapello Co. (many obs), and 28 Apr in Dubuque Co. (CLW).

Dickcissel: A bird that wintered at Corydon was last seen 21 Apr (AB-photo).

Bobolink: First: 3 males on 24 Apr in Wayne Co. (AB-details) [second earliest].

Red-winged Blackbird: a male on 13 May at Sandhill L. lacked red pigment and had white epaulets (BFH).

Eastern Meadowlark: First: singing 13 Mar in Marion Co. (MPr) and 16 Mar in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Western Meadowlark: First: singing 13 Mar in Jasper Co. (MPr) and 16 Mar in Johnson Co. (MCD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 2 on 12 Apr at Goose L. (CE).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 20 on 12 Mar at Cone Marsh (THK). Most: 40 on 12 Apr at Muskrat Slough in Iowa Co. (MCD). Hardly a common bird anymore.

Brewer's Blackbird: 7 reports, almost as many reported as Rusty Blackbirds. First: 13 on 25 Mar near Kellerton and 18 on 25 Mar in Wayne Co. (both AB). Most: 42 on 20 Apr in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Great-tailed Grackle: Over 20 reports of 1 to 10 birds, including nesting in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Birds on 3 May at Muskrat Slough and 14 May at Goose L. were first Jones and Clinton county records (CE).

Orchard Oriole: First: 27 Apr at Pioneer Ridge (many obs) and 28 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE).

Baltimore Oriole: First: 24 Apr at Saylorville L. (MPr) and 25 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF).

Purple Finch: Most: 19 on 12 Apr at Garavillo (DA). Last: a female on 12 May at Fairfield (DCP).

White-winged Crossbill: Singles on 15 Mar at Council Bluffs (Paul Lehman fide THK) and on 9 Apr at Mason City (CJF, RGo).

Common Redpoll: Only report: 70 on 29 Mar in Bremer Co. (JoS).

Pine Siskin: May birds: 1 to 3 at 6 locations, but no indications of nesting. Last: 3 on 29 May at Cherokee (DBi).

Evening Grosbeak: No reports of this now Casual species.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported only from Cone Marsh — not as far to drive as the ones near Burlington?

CONTRIBUTORS

Several nuggets of information that interested me were panned out of the IA-Bird Listserv, and I want to thank some of its members for becoming new contributors to the Field Reports. If you post rare and unusual bird sightings to the listserv, please send separate field reports to the seasonal Field Reports editors so these important pieces of data aren't lost for the future.

Danny Akers	DA	Garanvillo
Carol Alexander	CaA	Fairfield
Pam Allen	PHA	West Des Moines
Reid Allen	RIA	West Des Moines
Dick Bierman	DBi	Cherokee
John Bollenbacher	JPB	Iowa City
Aaron Brees	AB	Corydon
Dennis Carter	DC	Decorah
Bob Cecil	RIC	Des Moines
Ray Cummins	RLC	Centerville
James J. Dinsmore	JJD	Ames
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Starkville, Mississippi
Mike Dooley	MCD	Cedar Rapids
Chris Edwards	CE	North Liberty
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale
Pete Ernzen	PE	Ida Grove
Carolyn Fisher	CJF	Mason City
Steve Freed	SFr	Moline, Illinois
Jim Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Dan Gifford	DG	Fairfield
Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk
Rita Goranson	RGo	Mason City
Paul Hertzell	PH	Mason City
Rick Hollis	RJH	North Liberty
Bill Huser	BFH	S. Sioux City, Nebraska
Ann Johnson	AJ	Norwalk
Tom Johnson	TJ	Centerville

Joel Jorgensen	JJo	Blair, Nebraska
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Fred Leshner	FL	LaCrosse, Wisconsin
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Curt Nelson	CRN	Mason City
Kent Nickell	KN	Waterloo
Wolf Oesterreich	WO	Ames
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Jim Sinclair	JSi	Indianola
Betty Snyder	BSn	Waterville
Tom Stone	TS	Waterloo
Ed Thelen	ETH	Spirit Lake
Rob Thelen	RTh	Carroll
Dennis Thompson	DT	Johnston
Dan Tiemeier	DaT	Centerville
Richard Trieff	RT	Indianola
Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
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Addendum to Field Reports — Spring 2001

Matthew C. Kenne



Figure 2. Snowy Owl, LaFayette Ridge/Capoli Road, Allamakee Co., 19 December 2001. Photo by F. Z. Leshner (see Iowa Bird Life 72:109).



Figure 3. White-winged Crossbill, Kitty Clausen, Mason City, IA, 29 December 2001. Photo by Carolyn Fischer (see Iowa Bird Life 72:112).

Early or late record designations should be added to the following species (Kenne 2001):

White-face Ibis, 20 Apr [3rd earliest]
Mute Swan, 22 May [ties 3rd latest]
Surf Scoter, 23 May [record latest]
Short-billed Dowitcher, 27 Apr [ties 3rd earliest]
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5 May [2nd earliest]
Northern Shrike, 1 Apr [ties 3rd earliest]
Tree Swallow, 17 Mar [ties 3rd earliest]
Cliff Swallow, 4 Apr [record earliest]
Sedge Wren, 25 Apr [ties 2nd earliest]
Orange-crowned Warbler, 28 May [ties 3rd latest]
Cape May Warbler, 27 Apr [record earliest]
Lark Sparrow, 12 Apr [second earliest]

Kenne, M.C. Field Reports – Spring 2001. *Iowa Bird Life* 71(3) 120-135

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Report of the Records Committee for 2001

Ann M. Johnson

The Records Committee reviewed 36 records from 2001 including one old record from 1997. Of these, 30 were accepted and 6 were not.

Committee members for 2001 with years in which their terms expire were James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Paul Hertzell (2004), Jim Sinclair (2005), Thomas H. Kent (2006), Lee Schoenewe (2007), and Ann M. Johnson (secretary, appointed by the committee). James J. Dinsmore (2008) was nominated by the committee and appointed by the IOU Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2002.

Use of the Internet for committee business continues to grow. This year an on-line documentation form was added, which will hopefully encourage more people to provide details of rare sightings.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. To be Accepted, a record must receive seven votes on the initial review or six votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the field reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. The P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

2001 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Clark's Grebe: 28 Apr to 7 May at Hallett's Quarry, Ames in Story Co. (01-11, P-1007, *IBL* 71:121); 12 May at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. (01-12, *IBL* 71:121); and 2 Dec at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (01-30, *IBL* 72:101).
Tri-colored Heron: 25 May to 28 May at Forney Lake in Fremont Co. (01-17, *IBL* 71:122).

Glossy Ibis: 23 May at Horseshoe Bend, Mark Twain NWR in Louisa Co. (01-16, *IBL* 71:122).

Brant: 16 to 19 Dec at Beaver Valley Wetland in Black Hawk Co. (01-34, *IBL* 72:103 [see also Brees 2002]).

Ferruginous Hawk: 27 Nov at Hitchcock NA in Pottawattamie Co. (01-18, *IBL* 72:34).

Gyr Falcon: 3 Mar at Union Hills WMA in Cerro Gordo Co. (01-03, *IBL* 71:124) and 9 Mar in Hartley in O'Brien Co. (01-05, P-1005, *IBL* 71:124).

Black-necked Stilt: 27 Apr at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (01-10, *IBL* 71:125).

Red Knot: 21 Aug at Runnells WA in Marion Co. (01-20, *IBL* 72:36) and 12 to 19 Sep at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (01-21, P-1008, *IBL* 72:36).

Least Sandpiper: 6 Dec at Runnells WA in Marion Co. (01-31, *IBL* 72:108).

Red Phalarope: 8 Sep at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (01-22, *IBL* 72:37).

Laughing Gull: 12 Mar at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (01-07, *IBL* 71:126).

Black-headed Gull: 6 to 20 Oct at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (01-28, *IBL* 72:37).

Iceland Gull: 24 Dec at W. Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (01-35, *IBL* 72:108).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 2 Aug at Sunbury in Cedar Co. (01-23, *IBL* 72:38); 14 Sep at Albia in Monroe Co. (01-24, *IBL* 72:38); and 16 Oct at Ogden in Boone Co. (01-25, *IBL* 72:38).

White-winged Dove: 1 to 6 Oct at Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (01-26, P-1009, *IBL* 72:38).

Say's Phoebe: 20 Apr near Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (01-09, P-1006, *IBL* 71:128).

Blue-headed Vireo: 15 Dec at ISU Horticulture Farm in Story Co. (01-29, *IBL* 72:110 [see also *IBL* 72:84]).

Mountain Bluebird: 9 Mar in O'Brien Co. (01-06, *IBL* 71:129).

Bohemian Waxwing: 24 Feb at Waterman Creek Watershed in O'Brien Co. (01-02, *IBL* 71:92) and 13 Dec at Hawkeye WA in Marion Co. (01-33, *IBL* 72:111).

Lark Bunting: 1 to 8 Jan at Perry in Dallas Co. (01-01, *IBL* 71:93 [see also Myers 2001]).

Painted Bunting: 12 May at Arney Bend WA in Marshall Co. (01-13, *IBL* 71:133).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 7 Apr near Paton in Greene Co. (01-04, *IBL* 71:133).

OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Lark Bunting: 19 Sep 1997 at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (01-AA, *Jerry Probst).

2001 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Gyr Falcon: A second-hand report was suggestive but too brief to be conclusive. The committee struggles with reports from someone other than the original observer and everyone should be encouraged to write the details as they see them (01-19, *IBL* 72:34).

Gyr Falcon: A fly-by of a rare bird that has no distinct markings again was suggestive but not conclusive (01-32, *IBL* 72:107).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: The identity of a dead bird found along the roadbed in the spring was never in question. Recent history has shown this species to occasionally appear in northwestern Iowa in the winter but so far there has been no modern day evidence of a breeding population in this area. After much discussion, the committee could not be certain of the origin of this specimen (01-14, *IBL* 71:124).

Thayer's Gull: The description of a spring bird could not conclusively eliminate a worn Herring Gull (01-08, *IBL* 71:127).

Three-toed Woodpecker: Possible confusion with a juvenile Hairy Woodpecker, combined with an unusual date for such a vagrant, put this record in the tantalizing but unaccepted category (01-27, *IBL* 72:39).

Indigo x Lazuli Bunting: The committee believed the description best fit an incompletely molted Indigo Bunting and that there were really no hybrid characteristics described (01-15, *IBL* 71:133).

STATUS CHANGES

The committee met in October and approved the following status changes to the official checklist:

Clark's Grebe — Accidental to Casual

King Rail — Regular to Casual

Black-necked Stilt — Casual to Regular

Greater Prairie-Chicken — Accidental to Regular (for introduced populations)

Laughing Gull — Regular to Casual

Little Gull — Casual to Accidental

Black-legged Kittiwake — Regular to Casual

Eurasian Collared-Dove — Accidental to Regular

Rufous Hummingbird — Accidental to Casual

Black-billed Magpie — Accidental to Casual

Townsend's Solitaire — Regular to Casual

Evening Grosbeak — Regular to Casual

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Myers, B. 2001. First Winter Record of Lark Bunting in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 71:188.

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Records from the Past: Lesser Goldfinch

Thomas H. Kent



Thomas H. Kent

This is the fifth in a series of articles on unpublished rare bird sightings that have been reviewed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Here I present information on the only accepted record of Lesser Goldfinch for Iowa and discuss plumage variations and extralimital records.

Lesser Goldfinch, 5 August 1999, Rockford, Floyd County, Barbara Hansen (photos), Ellen S. Montgomery (documentation), 99-23.

Barbara Hansen, a naturalist at the Rockford Prairie and Fossil Park, identified and photographed a male Lesser Goldfinch at her feeder in Rockford on 5 August 1999 (Figures 1 and 2). She contacted Ellen Montgomery, who saw the bird at 5:35 P.M. the same day and described it as follows.

Small, slender bird (smaller than American goldfinches on feeders at same time), short, sturdy bill. Entire crown black. Neck and back were greenish. Wings black with large white wing patches at base of primaries. Tail black. Throat, breast, belly and undertail coverts were bright yellow. Undulating flight. Eating nyjer [niger] seed at feeders with American goldfinches and house finches. Quite aggressive towards American Goldfinches.

The strong black and yellow coloration indicates that the bird is a male. The black and green upper parts (rather than yellow), white patch on the wing (base of primaries, much like the similar mark on Black-throated Blue Warbler), yellow under-tail coverts (rather than white), and relatively smaller size all easily distinguish Lesser Gold-

finch from American Goldfinch. In contrast to American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch has the same plumage year around.

The range of Lesser Goldfinch extends from southwestern Texas, western Oklahoma, Colorado, southern Wyoming, southern Idaho, and southern Washington south to Peru. Males west of Utah and Arizona have green backs, napes, and auriculars and less black on the posterior crown. They have been assigned to the subspecies *Carduelis psaltria hesperophilus*. Classical birds in the eastern part of the range have entirely black upperparts (except for white wing bars) and black auriculars and are assigned to the nominate subspecies *Carduelis psaltria psaltria*. Unfortunately, birds in the eastern part of the range often have green backs and variable green on the nape and auriculars. The Iowa bird has a green back and nape, and the auriculars are dark green-black with some yellow spots. The black cap may extend a little farther back than on a classic *C. p. hesperophilus*. Young males in all areas of the range may have green backs, but it is not known how many carry this plumage into later molts (Sibley 2000; Willoughby pers. comm.).

The plumages of Lesser Goldfinch have been incompletely studied. The most extensive treatise is that of Watt and Willoughby (1999). I sent the photographs and detailed questions to Ernest J. Willoughby. He is in the middle of an extensive study of specimens. At a later time he may be able to better define the number and gradation of green-backed forms in the eastern part of the range. He concludes that the Iowa bird is probably not of West Coast origin “because of its very dark auriculars, which is a trait pretty typical of interior birds after their first spring (prenuptial) molt.” Mexican origin cannot be excluded because “the birds in northern Mexico do not appear to differ in any particular way from those in Colorado to Texas.”

I asked about evidence of the bird having been caged: “I cannot tell from the photo to what extent the secondaries and tertials are worn, which would indicate something about its age and molt history. However, plumage wear will not likely give any clues concerning its being caged. I would expect a caged bird to have much less-faded old feathers than a comparable wild bird, but careful examination



Figure 1. Lesser Goldfinch, 5 August 1999, Rockford, Floyd County. Photograph by Barbara Hansen.



*Figure 2. Lesser Goldfinch,
5 August 1999, Rockford,
Floyd County. Photograph
by Barbara Hansen.*

under a microscope with known wild birds would be necessary to tell.”

All this leads to the conclusion that the Iowa bird is most likely to be from the eastern part of the range or Mexico, but an escaped bird cannot be excluded. The same conclusion applies to most of the extralimital records. The grouping of Lesser Goldfinch into black-backed and green-backed is overly simplistic. The amount of green in the back, scapulars, nape, and auriculars should be documented to help distinguish “green-backed” eastern birds from truly green-backed western birds.

I compiled all of the vagrant records east of the normal range and north of Mexico. (There are also a few from British Columbia.) There are a number of records in bordering Great Plains states — at least six counties in Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1992), 13 reports from Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001; W. Ross Silcock pers. comm.), and regular occurrence in southwestern South Dakota (Tallman et al. 2002).

I only found references for 12 other vagrant records (Table 1). They are widely scattered from North Dakota to Maine and from Louisiana to North Carolina. Some of these records lack details and are not accepted for state lists. There are six fall-winter records (KY, NC, WI, LA, PA, ME) and five spring-summer records (LA, ND, MO, ONT, IA). One bird remained in Arkansas for three years. These records are scattered from 1954 to 1999, but over half are from the 1980s. A pair nested in North Dakota. An earlier Iowa record (Hanna and Hanna 1964) was considered probably incorrect by the IOU Records Committee and is not included here.

Lesser Goldfinch migrates south in October from its interior range, although there are some winter records in Colorado and elsewhere. Other southwestern species are fall-winter vagrants to eastern North America, and some are also spring-summer over-migrants. Does this pattern, along with the wide temporal and distributional scatter argue that most of the Lesser Goldfinch records are not of escaped birds? Lesser Goldfinch is a common cage bird in the markets of Guadalajara, Mexico (Cecil 2001). On the other hand, it is not known whether such caged birds are brought to the United States with any great frequency. For the moment, it seems best to consider the extralimital records of Lesser Goldfinches as vagrants and to include several records that are considered probably correct.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Ernest J. Willoughby for sharing his extensive knowledge of this species. Information on extralimital records was provided by W. Ross Silcock (Nebraska); Robert C. Leberman and Nick Pulcinella (Pennsylvania); and Paul Garrity, Judith Walker, and Jody Despres (Maine). Willoughby and Silcock reviewed the final draft. Paul Hertzell obtained copies of the original photographs and confirmed information about the Iowa record.

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Table 1. Extralimital records of Lesser Goldfinch in eastern North America

State and year	Date	City/county	Details	Reference
LA 1954	17 Apr	Cameron	Female, black back, collected	AFN ^a 8(4):319, 1954 Lowery 1955
ND 1954	20–24 Aug Ward Co.	Kenmare,	Pair feeding young	AFN 8(5):352, 1954
MO 1969	4–6 Apr	Kansas City	Male, black back at feeder; photo	Robbins and Easterla 1992
KY 1980	5–8 Dec	Elizabethtown	Male, black back at feeder; photo	Monroe 1994 AB ^a 35(3):306, 1981
PA 1982	2 Feb	Meadville, Crawford Co.	No details	Leberman 1988
	22–25 Mar	Saegertown, Crawford Co.		AB 36:295, 1982
ONT 1982	10 Aug	Toronto	Female, accepted	James 1982 James 1991
AR 1984– 1986	Summer 1984 29 Dec 1985 Winter 1986	Benton Co.	Imm. male at feeder	AB 40(2):293 AB 41(1):294
NC 1984	27 Sep	Winston-Salem	Imm. male at feeder	AB 40(1):100
WI 1984	13 Nov	Superior	Male, green back at feeder	Robbins 1991 Stephan 1985
LA 1985	19 Jan– 20 Feb	Gretna (New Orleans)	Imm. male at feeder; photo	AB 39(2):178
ME 1992– 1993	15 Dec– 13 Apr	Georgetown, Sagadahoc Co.	Male, black back at feeders; photo	AB 47(2):240, 243 – Despres 1993
IA 1999	5 Aug	Rockford, Floyd Co.	Male, green back at feeder; photo	Kent 2002

^aAFN = *Audubon Field Notes*; AB = *American Birds*

Archival of Ornithological Records at Iowa State University Parks Library — Special Collections

Thomas H. Kent

In June 2002, documents relating to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Records Committee and field reports through 1999 were delivered to the Iowa State University Parks Library, Department of Special Collections for future use by researchers of Iowa ornithology.

These documents comprise the following:

- I. Records of birds reviewed by the Records Committee of the IOU from 1980 to 1999.
 - A. 1,489 individual rare bird records of 227 species recorded from 1820 to 1999, in archival folders by species. Each record contains (1) original documentation(s); (2) photograph(s) related to sighting (300 total); (3) review sheet summarizing details of record, related documents, reviewers' comments (typed), and outcome of review; and (4) copy of published article on accepted records.
 - B. Description of the records, including (1) Introduction (rare bird records reviewed by the Records Committee of Iowa Ornithologists' Union, T. H. Kent, 2000); (2) The State List (copies of Kent, T. H. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa*. Published by the authors, Iowa City. Pp. 1–3 and Kent, T. H. 1996. Official Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1996 Edition. *Iowa Bird Life* 66:76-85); (3) records reviewed by record number; (4) records reviewed in taxonomic order by species; (5) alphabetical list of species with taxonomic sequence number; (6) bylaws of the Records Committee; and (7) annual reports of the Records Committee.

- II. Original comments and votes by seven members of Records Committee on each of above records on "Batch Sheets" filed by year.
- III. Original quarterly "field reports" submitted by about 500 different birders, 1962–1999.
- IV. Documentations (written descriptions) of moderately rare Iowa birds reviewed by field reports editors of *Iowa Bird Life* — 2,101 documentations.
- V. The IOU Photo File through 1999.
 - A. Description and catalogues including (1) general description of collection and abbreviations; (2) catalogue of bird photos by species (taxonomic order) including date, location, contributor, and type(s) of image(s); and (3) list of bird photos by photo number (accession number) including date, location, contributor, and type(s) of image(s).
 - B. Color slides, 35 mm (2 x 2-inch) transparencies (733).
 - C. Negatives, mostly 35 mm color and black and white (538).
 - D. Photographic prints, color and black and white (896).
 - E. Extra prints, most 3.5 x 5-inch (623).
 - F. Movie (one 8-mm film) and audiotape cassettes of bird songs (3).
 - G. Digital prints, scanned from selected photos (383 in 2 notebooks)
 - H. Digital image files of above in TIFF format (5 CDs)

Identical copies of the Records Committee documents (see I) and digital prints from the Photo File (see V, G and H) are on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines.

More detail on IOU materials at the Iowa State University Library can be viewed at <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spel/manuscripts/MS166.html>>.

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Painted Bunting in Marshall County

Beth Proescholdt

It was 12 May 2001, a calm, warm spring day, and Mark and I had been birding all day in Marshall County. In our yard, we had seen warblers even before we got to Grammar Grove Wildlife Area, which was over-brimming with migrating birds.

When we reached Arney Bend Wildlife Area in late afternoon, I was lazy and sat in the car in a brushy-edged parking lot while Mark went to the pond.

Then onto a rusty old fence about 25 feet away, a male Painted Bunting in spectacular full plumage flew in. He perched a moment, hopped onto the grass, and flew into the brush and disappeared, not to be seen again, all in a minute or so at 5:30 to 5:31 P.M.

The bird had a brilliant blue-violet hood, a lime-green back, bright red underparts and rump, with brownish wings tinged with green. It was about the same size as an Indigo Bunting seen there moments before. Did they fly north together? I wondered.

Painted Buntings have sometimes been caged illegally, and a bird sighted in an urban area might be suspected of being an escapee. But this bird was in a wild area. Arney Bend Wildlife Area in northern Marshall County is brushy river-bottom land along the Iowa River. It also was seen at a reasonable time for a spring migrant overshoot and has been accepted by the IOU Records Committee as a first Iowa record for Painted Bunting.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2002 Meeting and Board Meeting

26–28 April 2002

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) business meeting held at the Baptist Camp, Ottumwa, was called to order by President Tom Johnson. Tom expressed appreciation to Darleen Ayres and the Ottumwa Bird Club for hosting the meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Jim Dinsmore moved that the minutes of the fall IOU meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Hank Zaletel and passed.

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson provided the treasurer's report. She reported \$10,310.52 in income and \$13,750.13 in expenses. Rita recommended that the treasurer's books be audited. Paul Hertzell will appoint two people from northern Iowa to do the auditing.

Tom Johnson discussed IOU membership and requested that members distribute IOU brochures to other organizations and clubs to encourage new members to join. Tom Johnson also suggested that members participate in area Birdathons.

IOU Publications. Tom Johnson brought up the subject of IOU publications and stated that members depend on the newsletter and the *Iowa Bird Life* journal. However, the publications account for most of IOU's expenses, and we need to figure out a way to pay for them. Rick Hollis commented that a number of journals are web-published, which could eliminate some costs of printing and postage. Jim Dinsmore stated that Kay Niyo is looking into the Internet as a way to publish the *Iowa Bird Life* journal. Jim Sinclair requested that we get an update from Kay Niyo for the fall IOU meeting. Beth Proesholdt spoke in favor of keeping the current publications.

Tom Johnson reported that there were a few copies of *Iowa Bird Life* winter issue 71(4) that contained binding errors by the printer, and members who would like that issue replaced should contact Dave Edwards.

Membership Dues. It has been five years since dues were raised; however, Tom Johnson said IOU could not increase dues until the next membership year. Paul Hertzelt spoke about advertisements that Minnesota Ornithologists' Union includes in its newsletter to help cover costs. Tom Johnson stated that the Nature Store on the IOU web page would result in some income.

Webmaster's Report. Ann Johnson's report stated that there were 13 new IOU memberships from the IOU web page. There are currently 242 subscribers on IA-BIRD. In her report, she encouraged members to add reports to the county bird list and said she will be working on writing up additional articles for the web page.

Spring Bird Count. Ann Barker provided an update on the 2002 Spring Count. There are only 19 counties covered and most of those are in eastern Iowa. The Spring Count this year will be on May 11.

August Field Trip. Tom Johnson informed members that Eugene and Eloise Armstrong have agreed to do a shorebird field trip at Hawkeye Wildlife Area in August.

Nominating Committee Report and Election. Tom Johnson gave the Nominating Committee report. Hank Zaletel was appointed by the IOU Board at its spring board meeting to fill the vacant vice president position. Tom Johnson then read the slate offered by the Nominating Committee — Sue Spieker, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; Judy Garton and John Rutenbeck, board. There were no other nominations from the floor. Jim Dinsmore moved to accept the slate as presented. Paul Hertzelt seconded and the motion passed.

Jim Dinsmore expressed appreciation to Jane Clark, retiring secretary, and to Jim Scheib, retiring board member.

Fall 2002 IOU Meeting Plans. Ric Zarwell announced that Kenn Kaufman has offered to attend the fall 2002 IOU meeting at his own expense. He suggested providing a training session and workshop for agency people, perhaps combined with the fall IOU meeting. Ric Zarwell discussed the possibility that the fall meeting would be held

near Saylorville Lake the weekend of September 13–15.

Spring 2003 IOU Meeting Site. Tom Johnson announced that the spring 2003 meeting would be held in the Waterloo area.

Membership Survey. Tom Johnson discussed a membership survey that will be used to gather comments on improving and enhancing IOU as an organization.

Announcements. There were several announcements of upcoming events. Hank Zaletel reminded members that the IOU display is available and can be shipped by UPS. Tom Johnson congratulated Doug Harr and Bruce Ehresman for their recent promotions within the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Hank Zaletel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Rutenbeck and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Jane R. Clark, secretary

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION BOARD MEETING

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union board met on 27 April 2002 and was called to order by President Tom Johnson at the Forest Lake Baptist Camp, Ottumwa, Iowa. Members present were Tom Johnson (president), Judy Garton, Rita Goranson, Sue Spieker, Sharon Stilwell, Dick Tetrault, Hank Zaletel, and Linda Zaletel.

Adjunct Committee for Conservation. The first discussion was about setting up an Adjunct Committee for Conservation. Named to the committee were Jane Clark and Jim Dinsmore.

Survey. The board discussed a survey to send to all members. The survey will discuss different aspects of the IOU. A letter discussing the survey and the IOU's finances will be mailed before the survey is sent.

Finances. A discussion was held about the finances and the different ways to handle it. The board discussed eliminating Life Member-

ships. Having different levels of membership was given some consideration. As an example only: Regular Member, \$20; Cardinal, \$40; Baltimore Oriole, \$50; Eagle, \$75; Goldfinch, \$100. No change in the category Life Membership was made at this time.

Respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

James Teer's article on fall waterfowl at Forney Lake in Fremont County was the lead article in the September 1952 issue of Iowa Bird Life. The 21 species of waterfowl Teer found using the area in fall 1950 were all common species with Mallard by far the most numerous. Of some interest was the fact that most geese were found in mid-October, somewhat earlier than the typical pattern for geese in recent years in Iowa. Incidentally, Teer is still active in the wildlife field in Texas.

Ernest Steffens describes his experiences with an injured Northern Saw-whet Owl that he kept for several days. His observations on how quickly the owl was able to kill its prey are of particular interest. The short notes include the description of a Black Rail seen near Des Moines (the second accepted record for Iowa) and a Piping Plover found near Ottumwa. Darleen Ayres, who hosted the spring 2002 IOU meeting, was among those fortunate enough to see the latter bird.



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Tom Johnson, President (2003), P.O. Box 1045, Centerville, IA 52544
Hank Zaletel, Vice President (2003), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
Susan Spieker, Secretary (2004), 1000 Gordon Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211
Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2004), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401
Board of Directors: **Judy Garton** (2004), **John Rutenbeck** (2004), **Sharon Stilwell** (2003), **Dick Tetrault** (2003), **Linda Zaletel** (2003)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Hank Zaletel (Chair) (2006), Robert I. Cecil (2005), James J. Dinsmore (2004), Jim Durbin (2002), Harold White (2003)
Records: Ann M. Johnson (secretary), James J. Dinsmore (2008), Paul Hertzel (2004), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Thomas H. Kent (2006), Lee Schoenewe (2007), James Sinclair (2005)
Membership: Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson
Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

16-18 May 2003, Waterloo

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available on the IOU web site or from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com).

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, mkenne@netamumail.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (Paul Hertzel, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzel@rconnect.com)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 509 S. West Street, Corydon, IA 50060 (abrees@hotmail.com)

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 and mcdooley@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in or e-mail Mike Dooley as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Pete Kernzen checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU WEB SITE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

Ann Johnson, Webmaster (iowabirds@iowabirds.org)

On-line resource for RBAs, checklists, site guides, IOU information, and much more. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertzel, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzel@rconnect.com)

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



